



JUNE 2007

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Police Grapple with Grime

By Julie Mitchell

If you ask a Potrero Hill resident about neighborhood crime, most will mention one thing: automobile break-ins. According to Jeffrey O'Brien, "There's been a rash of broken car windows near my house on Rhode Island Street south of Southern Heights. We've resorted to the same old tactic we used in New York: we empty our car of everything, open the glove box, and just hope our windows aren't smashed when we get up in the morning. I've heard from police officers that crime isn't rising in our neighborhood, but that strikes me as a standard response."

Kate Lange, who has lived at De Haro and 22nd streets for six years, echoes O'Brien's concerns. "I recently had my car broken into right in front of my house," she said. "This isn't an unusual occurrence, but I've never been 'hit' before. My neighbors haven't been as lucky. They've had multiple break-ins, and one guy won't even replace his wing window anymore as they keep hitting him; he taped it with duct tape. Other neighbors are actually building a two-space garage to keep their vehicles safe because they have been victims so many times."

Car break-ins, frequent as they may be, are mild inconveniences compared to recent reports of muggings and gun violence in the neighborhood. Last month a number of Potrero Hill residents were disturbed by the sound of late-night gunfire coming from the vicinity of the Potrero Annex/Potrero Terrace housing complex on Texas and 20th streets. According to one resident, "I live in the Sierra Heights development right next to the projects, and two bullets made their way through one of my neighbor's bedrooms. It was their daughter's room, and thank God she wasn't there at the time! The police showed up the next morning and concluded that the bullets were from an AK47!"

Despite these complaints, official statistics indicate that both violent crime and auto break-ins on the Hill are down from a year ago, thanks in part to stepped-up police patrols from the Bayview Station, which serves the City's southeastern neighborhoods. The Station is responsible for one of the City's largest areas -- from McLaren Park

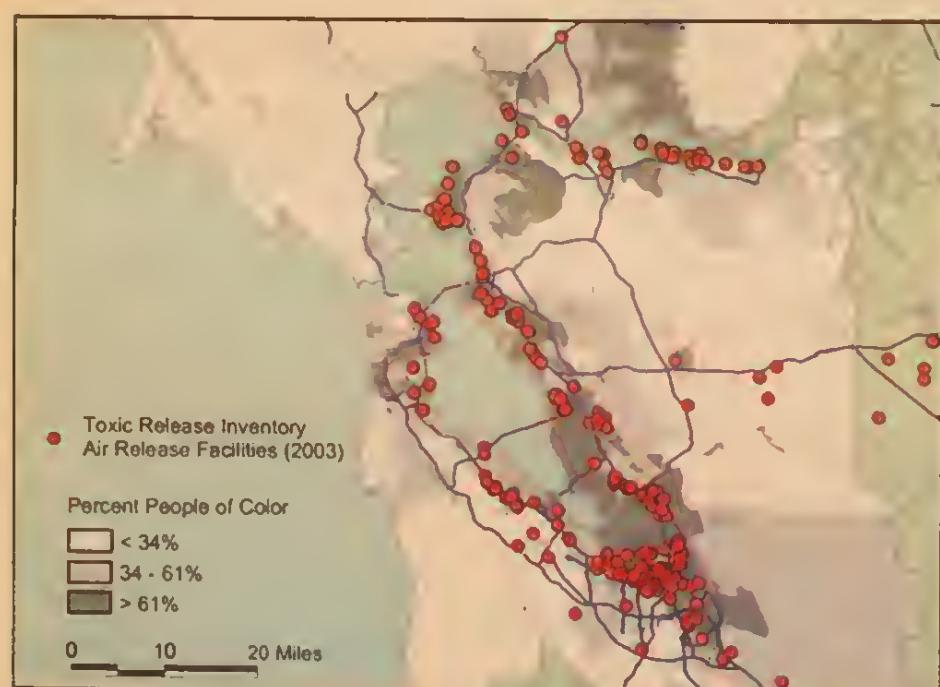
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Photo by Paula Eve Aspin

Summertime in the City! A view of Twin Peaks from the community garden located next door to McKinley Park.

Environmental Racism



Researchers superimposed cancer statistics on a Bay Area map to trace correlations between racial demographics and ambient air pollutants. The map shows the level of cancer risk per million lives, with the dark red and burgundy segments representing the neighborhoods with cancer risks reportedly above regional averages. See related article on page 12.

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Daddy Justice

By Steven J. Moss

Sometimes a daddy needs to deliver an old-fashion ass-whoopping, 1950s style. I'm not talking about child beating, or what a "daddy" might practice with another consenting adult at a local club. The spankings I'm referring to are to protect our communities and our children's future. Every once in awhile developers, corporations, even politicians need to be given a good thrashing, for their own good, and ours.

There are lots of ways economic and political interests can be spanked. Consumer boycotts, mass protests, and legislative or regulatory action, to name a few. My dad recently reached into his own pocket to pay for a lawsuit opposing a development in Palo Alto. In a five-four vote the City Council approved a medium-sized residential project on land zoned for light industry even though the project didn't comply with the

California Environmental Quality Act and the Planning Department had recommended it be denied. Through the lawsuit my father hopes to force the creation of a better development plan, and ensure that new land uses meet legal and social obligations, rather than cater to developer-driven needs to make as fat a profit as possible. That is, my dad's old-school spanking could help stop future bad behavior from happening.

This Father's Day I call on all daddies to pull out their spanking stick and have at it with the forces of greed and ignorance. Spankings are appropriately out-of-vogue for children, liberating this righteous energy to be used on behalf of the communal good. A handful of fathers, and mothers, effectively speaking out and wielding their wallets and their wits could do all of us a lot of good.

Editorial

A Leader Worth Supporting

By Carole Migden

As your State Senator, I have championed a wide range of issues to improve people's lives. I have taken on predatory lenders who offer quick cash at impossibly high interest rates. I have protected our drinking water and increased penalties for polluters. I have led the fight to improve education and open up college opportunity. I am protecting consumer privacy and I am pushing new legislation to require consumer notification on food products from cloned animals. I sponsored legislation that created the domestic partner registry that now carries almost every state benefit afforded to married couples. I appropriated \$245.5 million to buy the Headwaters Forest Preserve and its 1,000-year-old trees to preserve our state's environmental history. Because of my efforts, the state of California now requires cosmetic manufacturers to disclose ingredients and carcinogens that may cause cancer. Throughout my career I have provided numerous programs for foster youth such as transitional

housing, increased savings accounts and adoption incentives for teens.

Most importantly, I made California the first state in the nation to go on record calling for the United States of America to end the Bush war in Iraq.

I have always been an activist Democratic leader. I campaigned to elect Howard Dean the Chair of the Democratic National Committee. I helped our party take back control of Congress. And I was the unanimous choice of Democrats to become the Chairwoman of the California Senate Democratic Caucus.

I have never believed in personality politics. I have always believed in issues politics. Please visit my website at www.clickchange.org and join me in promoting social and environmental issues. I am including people in making change happen.

I'm good at my job. And while term limits have forced me into a challenge for re-election, I hope that what I have accomplished earns me an opportunity to continue my work.



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The View is produced on a shoe-string budget that's supported by our mostly long-term advertisers and a handful of subscribers. We do our best to publish a paper worth reading, but the quality of each issue depends in large part on volunteers.

If you're a writer, we could use your help crafting articles on community issues, arts, and entertainment. If you're a photographer or artist we'd love to have your skills at our disposal. If you could use a few extra bucks help us sell advertisements. And if you're a reader please subscribe, and feel free to throw us a few additional dollars.

We also need our neighbors' help with content. News about the children you know, or the school your kids attend; tips about local residents who should be profiled, or stories that need to be covered, or flat out gossip are always welcome. Send these items to editor@potrero.org.

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**the PLAN POTRERO HILL series is organized by the Thick House
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and the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House**

Helipad Proposal Meets Strong Opposition at City Hall Meeting

By Kerry Fleisher

The debate over whether to construct a helipad at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) escalated to new heights last month when the San Francisco Planning Commission opened the floor to public comment at one of its weekly meetings. At 11 p.m. on a Thursday night, 10 hours after the meeting started and following a SFGH briefing on its plans to rebuild the hospital, close to 20 individuals rose to speak on the sensitive topic. Most of the speakers were Bernal Heights, Potrero Hill and Mission District residents, who voiced their opposition to the helipad. The display of public resistance to the project prompted the planning commissioners to reevaluate existing requirements for its approval.

Helipad critics cited noise pollution, helicopter safety, overcrowded emergency rooms, and the University of California, San Francisco's (UCSF) proposed helipad landing at its new children's hospital in Mission Bay as reasons to reject the \$5.7 million project. The planning commissioners responded to the speakers' concerns by insisting that SFGH produce better information about potential helicopter-related noise pollution and develop a thorough analysis of how existing helipads located in other dense urban areas--including in Baltimore, Boston and New York City--have impacted nearby residents as part of the project's environmental impact report, which is due out this summer.

Anna Brook Temple, a Potrero Hill resident, is concerned that the helipad might contribute to overcrowding at SFGH's emergency facilities, further displacing uninsured individuals with wealthier patients from other regions. "[The helipad] might displace San Franciscans at General Hospital and be a misallocation of scarce resources," she said. Several commissioners echoed Temple's fear, saying that they were hard-pressed to see how the helipad, as part of a public hospital, would benefit San Francisco taxpayers as opposed to out-of-City residents.

Lynn Eggers, of Bernal Heights, who's worked as a registered nurse and clinician in San Francisco for 35 years, stated that helicopters "seldom if ever would be utilized to transfer people to trauma sites within San Francisco," based on her experience. Judy Bergmann, from the New Mission Terrace Improvement Association, pointed out that most helicopters in the East Bay are based in Concord, and no helicopters are currently based in San Francisco.

"Where on earth is this helicopter going to land in the City?" one

commissioner ventured, after asking how many of the alleged three flights per day might be used for non-trauma cases or organ transfers inside San Francisco. "It's not gonna land in North Beach and Chinatown, that's for sure," he added.

Helicopter accident rates were another hot-button issue. Potrero Hill resident Christopher Saber asserted that helicopter accident rates amongst emergency management services have risen in recent years, prompting safety reviews. Del Gregor, another Potrero Hill resident, read excerpts from a recent *Wall Street Journal* article entitled "Air Ambulances Are Under Fire." A commissioner similarly pointed out that San Francisco police officers had limited helicopter use after a fatal crash in 2000.

Eggers complained about plans for helipads at SFGH, a level one trauma center, and UCSF Children's Hospital, a level two trauma center located just a mile away. According to Eggers, level two centers don't provide less quality care than level one facilities, but offer the "same in-depth medical service" and are simply not "affiliated with accredited medical training programs and related research programs." Based on Eggers' comments several commissioners requested additional information regarding the precise differences between level one and level two trauma centers.

Although most speakers voiced their opposition to the helipad, a handful of individuals noted their support for the project. Robert Mackersie, professor of surgery at SFGH, stated that the helipad would be an indispensable asset to the hospital since it would allow San Francisco to participate in a larger regional trauma structure. And in a large-scale emergency, such as an earthquake or terrorist attack, a helipad would serve to help City neighborhoods cope because it could raise SFGH's "surge capacity for disasters."

Most speakers, however, did not believe that creating "surge capacity" was SFGH's prime motivation to develop a helipad. Tom Casey, a homeowner who would be directly under the flight pattern of the proposed helipad, spoke on behalf of many of his neighbors when he said that he believed some of the hospital's arguments in favor of the project have been "disingenuous" to "increase revenue stream at San Francisco General by transporting patients in." This would be an affront to the hospital's current mission statement, he said, which is "to serve the residents in San Francisco."

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M & M MARKET



Photo by Katherine Levin

The Hernandez Family in front of their new venture, L to R: Sasha, Frank, Francesca, Samantha, Zoe, and Norah

By Sasha Vasilyuk

These days M&M Market, located on De Haro and 23rd streets, is filled with children's cheerful shrieks. Gone are the old shelves and the long-time previous owners of this neighborhood staple. New proprietors Norah and Frank Hernandez have set up shop with hopes of improving the corner market and bringing a young family's touch to the community.

Standing on the unfinished floor among their four children--all girls--the new owners reflected on what it means to take over the business from the Michael family, who ran the market for four decades. "It's like we are them 40 years later," said Norah. "I would like to see us being here for a long time." According to Norah, the Michaels wanted to sell the market to a family and, with kids ranging from three to 12 plus a dog, Norah and Frank fit the bill.

For the Hernandez family buying the business meant a brand new start. The couple, who were living on Catalina Island, moved to San Francisco two months ago after falling in love with the City during their vacation last summer. Norah said San Francisco reminded her of a miniature New York, where she's from. "On a whim" they decided to leave the familiar life on the island and move to fog city.

"I'm a total believer that we have only one life to live," explained Norah. "If you want to do something, you should just go and do it."

Norah considers herself a risk-taker. When she was 21 she packed her suitcase, found a roommate in a newspaper ad, got a one-way ticket from New York to Los Angeles and never looked back. Her family's move to San Francisco, she said, is a little scarier "when you have the little ones relying on you."

The move was more than a change of scenario; it included taking on a business with which they had no prior experience. On Catalina Island Norah was employed as project analyst for Southern California Edison Company and Frank worked for the local rock quarry. Opening a food-related enterprise was something the couple always wanted to do, and they figured their move to San Francisco was the best time to try it. They also hoped that their new life would help them provide a better future for their daughters. Their three oldest girls, Samantha, Zoe, and Francesca have enrolled at Saint Brigit School, and Norah is now spending more time with their youngest, Sasha.

Although they've never worked together, Norah and Frank are optimistic that constant contact won't rub them the wrong way. "Unlike some couples, we can spend 24 hours together," said Norah, who serves as the market's bookkeeper while Frank is "the personality of the place."

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M&M

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"My husband is great with people," explained Norah. "And he is the master chef in our house." The couple plans to keep the market family-oriented by adding deli choices for children, such as half-sandwiches or fruit cups, as well as setting up tables with games to keep kids occupied while their parents shop. "I want it to be really kid-friendly because there are a lot of children in the neighborhood," said Norah.

The new owners also plan to expand the market's product selection to better cater to local shoppers. Organic produce will be one important addition, and prompted by suggestions from nearby residents,

coffee will be available; something that's missing on the Southern side of Potrero Hill. They also intend to upgrade their wine offerings and reduce their hard liquor selection, quelling concerns from neighbors that the market might turn into a liquor store that stays open until the morning hours. "I understand their concern," Norah said. "If I owned a million dollar home, I wouldn't want a liquor store next to it. But they didn't know who we were. They'll just have to wait and trust us."

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Eastern Neighborhoods Need More Housing

By Lisa Tehrani

The San Francisco Planning Department may be finally nearing the end of a half-decade planning process for the eastern neighborhoods, which include the Mission District, Central Waterfront, Dogpatch, Eastern South-of-Market (SOMA), Potrero Hill, and Showplace Square. The Department hopes to present its proposals to the Planning Commission by the end of the year. As part of the process Hausrath Economics Group (HEG) recently released the final draft of *San Francisco's Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning Socioeconomic Impacts*, which examined the potential impacts of the Planning Department's proposed land use changes.

While some developers and policy makers want to see Eastern SOMA and Showplace Square turned into a new residential community, doubling the area's existing population, community groups are hoping for plans that reflect a more sustainable approach that maintains the neighborhoods' historical character. According to Tony Kelly, President of the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association, "The consensus from Potrero Hill, for many years, has been that our mix of residential and industrial character is something we want to keep. We are very concerned about keeping

the neighborhood from being overrun with high-end condos. This has been a working class neighborhood for 150 years or more, and we will do what we can to keep it that way."

HEG's study examined two scenarios, one in which minimal changes are made to existing land use patterns and one in which substantial amounts of new residential development are allowed. The report largely focused on how housing development will impact light industry, commonly referred to as "production, distribution and repair" (PDR). The report found that the eastern neighborhoods are currently ethnically diverse, with a large number of foreign-born residents and rental units; that existing housing stock doesn't meet the needs of families and larger households; and that single-parent, large households and families are being forced out of the community, principally as a result of high housing prices.

PDR businesses are responsible for the largest share of employment in the eastern neighborhoods — much of it low skill and low wage — accounting for roughly 32,000 jobs. PDR is also the most common

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Autism Effects Bay Area Latinos

By Alison Fromme
Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

At the Perez household in San Mateo, skinny six year old Joshua momentarily stops playing among his sea of toys--a playhouse, a bouncy ball, a bike, an easel, and countless others--to hug a visitor. "Wanna meet my friend Zoe? Wanna meet my friend Zoe? Wanna meet my friend Zoe?" he asks eagerly, eyes darting around the room.

His mother, Maria, coaxes him to look the visitor in the eye and introduce himself. He tries once, saying "What's my name?" and then repeats the same question. After several attempts, he gets it right: "Hi. My name is Josh. What's your name?" Once the introductions have been made he runs outside to play with his friend Zoe. Maria watches through the window, hoping that he'll interact directly with his playmate.

Getting Joshua to speak even this well didn't come easily. He has autism, a lifelong disorder that effects his ability to communicate and interact socially. He didn't say "mama" until he was almost three years old.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, as many as one out of every 150 eight-year-old children has autism, a disability that manifests itself in a variety of ways with varying severity. Boys are four times more likely to have the syndrome than girls. Children with autism can face a constellation of challenges, including learning how to appropriately speak and play with their peers. They frequently avoid eye contact, prefer to be alone, echo words said to them, and have trouble expressing their needs. Instead of playing with a toy truck by animating it, an autistic child might seem transfixed while twirling a single wheel repeatedly.

Maria noticed early on that her son wasn't the type of baby who liked being cuddled, or demanded a lot of attention. He didn't focus on people's faces. At two years old he still wasn't speaking. Since she works with hundreds of babies as a medical assistant at a pediatrician's office, Maria knew Josh's behavior wasn't typical.

Still, Josh babbled like any other baby and walked when he was one year old. Maria wasn't eager to admit that her son might have a problem. "We Latinas, we don't talk about these issues because of the stigma, because mental health problems are taboo, because we're embarrassed, because we're scared, because it's socially unacceptable," she said.

According to researchers, Latinos have traditionally believed that having a child with a disability is punishment for the parents' sins. In addition to the culturally-embedded shame associated with disabilities, strong family ties dissuade some Latino parents from seeking outside

help: families are supposed to provide whatever loving support is needed and government services can seem foreign and confusing. Some Latino families are reluctant to access assistance that they perceive as a hand-out to the poor.

Autism is not as commonly reported among the Latino population as compared with European- or African-Americans. In California, more than 20,000 autistic people receive services from the state. About 4,700--roughly 23 percent--come from homes where Spanish is the primary language spoken, compared with the 26 percent of all Californians who speak Spanish at home.

"Autistic Latinos are definitely undercounted, which may be because they are underdiagnosed," said Dr. Sandy Magaña, Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin's Waisman Center of Human Development, Developmental Disabilities, and Neurodegenerative Diseases. "Since many Latinos lack health insurance, their children may never be observed by professionals who know how to observe these behaviors and diagnose autism."

Maria read everything she could about autism. "I had so much to learn," she said. Many of the books she consulted indicated that early intervention is critical, which made Maria worry that it was already too late to help her son. She and her husband, a pediatrician, decided to seek care for their son. When Josh was about two and a half years old she brought him to the Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC), a nonprofit organization that coordinates services for individuals with developmental disabilities in San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties.

GGRC evaluates infants and toddlers who are suspected of having autism. If a child is found to have a disability, the center provides free classes for the child and their family, parent support groups, and other services, such as job placement assistance, throughout the disabled person's lifetime. Spanish and Cantonese translators are available. "It is hard for families with limited or no English to communicate with English-speaking professionals, even through interpreters," said Rocio de Mateo Smith, Executive Director of Area Board Five on Developmental Disabilities, an independent state agency working to ensure that people with disabilities receive the services they need. "It is critical for parents to understand the what, why and how of interventions. There are very few bilingual autism therapists available, so some families go without services because they cannot find someone who can work with them."

Before Josh was evaluated at GGRC, some of his doctors suggested that his bilingual environment might explain why he hadn't begun speaking by the age of two and

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Bay View, Potrero Hill Family Health Fair

By Kerry Fleisher

Last month a weekend visitor strolling on Potrero Hill's Wisconsin Street may have heard a Bobby Brown mash-up being spun in the distance. The music was coming from Starr King Elementary School, which was hosting the Potrero Hill Family Resource Center's annual "School Readiness Health Fair".

While the kids scurried around a San Francisco Fire Department fire truck or danced to DJ Louie Lu's beats, parents strolled from one booth to the next, collecting educational materials on infant health care, childhood asthma and breast cancer. Fair participants who collected a stamp from every booth received a free beverage and sizzling hamburger from the barbecue.

At one booth nonprofit Safe Start fielded questions about their telephone counseling service, the TALK Line Family Support Center, located in the Haight. TALK (Telephone Aid in Living with Kids) provides 24-hour crisis and counseling support for parents who are feeling helpless, depressed, or burnt-out.

"It's a problem sometimes for people to just talk. We get a lot of calls from single parents who need help," explained Claudia Arrighi, a Potrero Hill resident, as she reeled in timid parents with a welcoming smile.

Next to Safe Start, Universal Chiropractic was offering remedies for muscle tension and work-related strains. Their sign "Back pain doesn't kill. It tortures!" hung in the background, and trained professionals offered massages to individuals with kinks in their necks or long-time back pain.

At the Potrero Hill Health Center table, Evita Mullin, originally from Nicaragua, reigned over her booth with a soothing, yet authoritative air. "Now go on and take this, and this here," she insisted in Spanish to two El Salvadorian-born parents, as she handed them brochures.

Three young boys strolled over to Mullins' booth, their mustaches just beginning to sprout. She requested

their ages ("18") and pulled them aside for a confidential conversation. Moments later, she handed them a brown paper bag and they darted off. "I just wanted to make sure they were at least 15 and had taken health class. I only give condoms to those 15 and up who are having sex. Why have sex and not understand the consequences?" she said.

At the Black Infant Health Project table advice was being dispensed to new parents, including tips on early intervention into health care or emotional problems, how to raise an autistic child, and how to cope with speech delays. According to volunteer Dayo Miggs, the Project offers free developmental screenings for infants and support groups for low-income parents with high risk children.

The Black Brothers Esteem Project proudly handed-out HIV/AIDS awareness brochures at the next booth. Their mission, said volunteers Elmer Ray Knowles and Antoine Mahon, is to provide physical, mental, and spiritual support to African-American gay and bisexual men. Other booths were occupied by the San Francisco Public Library, Care Optometry, Bayview-Hunters Point Health and Environmental Resource Center, which offers free mammogram services, and the San Francisco Fire Department, among others.

A cohort of kids, bouncing their heads to the beats of the B-52s, paused in their dancing session for a breather. In response to a question from this *View* reporter, Chinedu Ebochie, after some earnest thought, said "I want to be healthy because I want to be a doctor." "I want to be healthy so I can exercise more," chimed in Michael Johnson. "Me because then I can play sports like baseball," Tamil Thomas one-upped his buddy, breaking into a chuckle.

Steven Bonilla, 16 years-old and several heads above the crowd, seemed to end the friendly debate, "I want to be healthy because I want to live."

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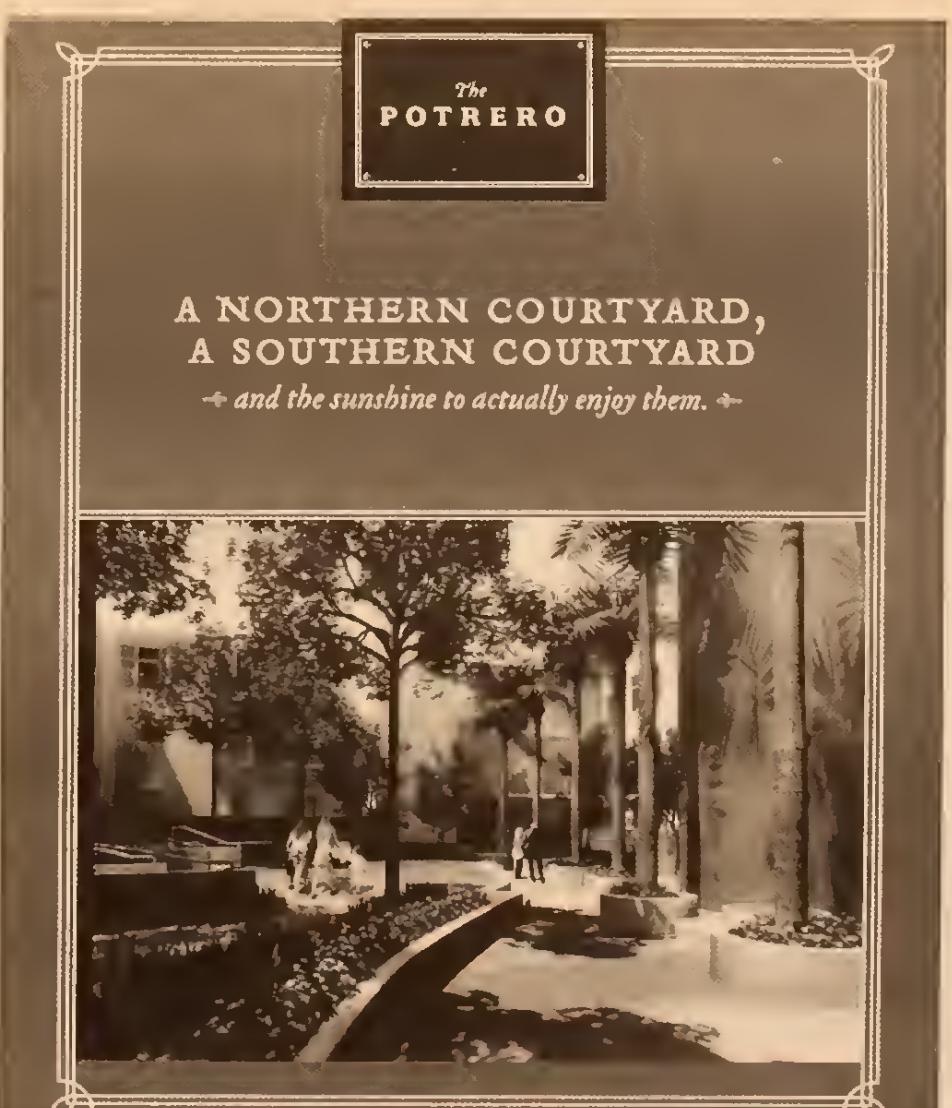
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A small reception will follow the service.

**For more information, contact Mollie Schneider at
(415) 751-2541 x124.**

**In addition, you can visit us on
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Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm, Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm

Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm, Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm

Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm

CLOSED: Sunday and Monday



LIBRARY NEWS

Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch, Acting Branch Manager

It's not yet been determined when the library will close for renovation, but it's likely to be this summer. While the library is being renovated children's and special programs will be held at Saint Gregory of NYSSA, 500 DeHaro Street.

June book selection: *The Night Watch* by Sarah Waters. Set during the air raids, blacked-out streets, and sexual adventure of World War II London, *The Night Watch* is "the finest achievement yet," according to the *Guardian*, from the bestselling author of *Fingersmith* and *Tipping the Velvet*.

Children's programs: Children 13 years old and younger are invited to join the 2007 Summer Reading Club. Read books and win prizes! Enroll at any neighborhood San Francisco Public Library beginning June 16.

Special programs

Thursdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10 a.m. (new time): Infant/toddler lap-sit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes. For children newborn to three years-old.

Thursdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10:50 a.m. (new program): Preschool story-time for children three to seven years old.

Tuesday, June 12 at 7 p.m.: Evening films *Danny and the Dinosaur*, *Curious George Goes to the Hospital* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. For children three and older.

Wednesday, June 20 at 1 p.m.: Flute Sweets and Tickle Tunes will perform. Simple, participatory, and delightful, this program combines the magical storytelling of Keith Torgan with the musical mastery of flutist Barbara Siegel. For children newborn to seven years old.

Wednesday, June 27 at 1 p.m.: Beautiful and fascinating wildlife live in the fields and forests surrounding our cities and suburbs. Children will learn about the secret lives of these intelligent and ecologically important animals – the Bobcat, Great Horned Owl, Red Fox, and Harris Hawk. Sponsored by Wildlife Associates; for children three to 12 years old.

Special programs for children will be offered on Wednesdays throughout the summer

Programs for teens

Teen Summer Read 2007 begins on June 15 and ends July 27. Teens who read during this period can win gift certificates, Southwest Airlines trips, I-pods, and more!

Want To Help Raise Money For the Potrero Library? Donate Your Art

The Neighborhood Library Campaign Committee, in collaboration with community members, is organizing an art auction to raise funds to purchase items public bond money won't pay for in the renovated or newly constructed Potrero Branch Library. If you'd like to contribute your art, please contact Tina Tom, Friends of the Library, 626.7512, extension 106.

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GETTING INVOLVED



Downtown High School sponsors a meeting with Principal Richard A. Maggi the first Friday of each month at the school. For information contact Babette Drefke, 282.5919. Next meeting: **June 1**, on Vermont Street between 18th and 19th streets in Room One, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **June 12**, at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

Potrero Boosters meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit www.potrero boosters.org or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or president@potrero boosters.org. Next meeting: **June 26**, 7 p.m.

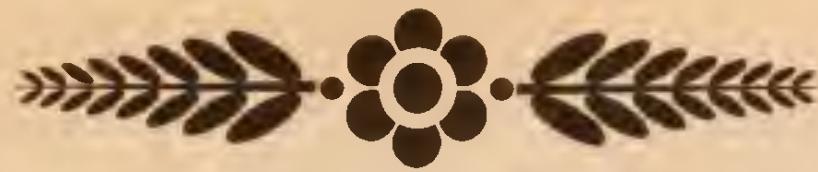
Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrero hill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **June 12**, 10 a.m.

Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **June 5**, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, call 648.6740, www.PHDemClub.org. Next meeting: **June 5**. This month, a panel discussion featuring both sides of the helipad issue.

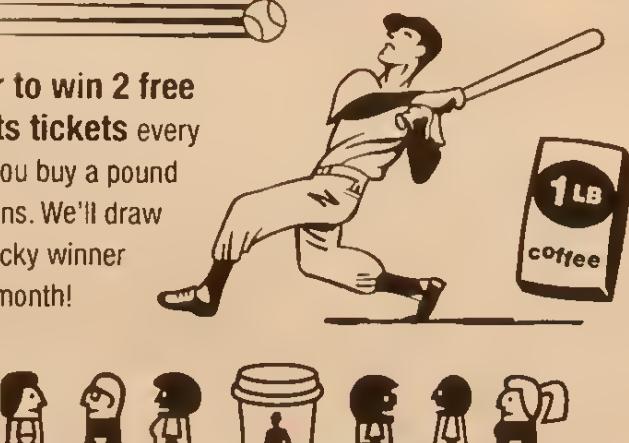
Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. **Volunteer for the Park** work days continue every month on the third Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 819.4900. Next meeting: **July 17**. Next Volunteer Day: **June 16**.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.6740 for details.



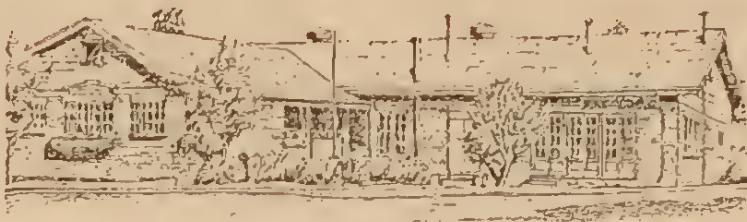
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Narcotics Anonymous Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

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Edward Hatter, Executive Director

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving those most in need with an emphasis on youth and education.
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This Month's Happenings

June 1st

Fish Fry @ the NABE

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
\$10, Eat-in or Take Out
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Proceeds benefit the NABE'S Summer Youth Programs.
Info: 415.826.8080

June 1 - June 18

Accepting Applications for "Summer in the City" Summer Program, All Kids 6-13,

FREE

Program Runs June 25 to August 17, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Breakfast, Lunch & Snacks Provided

Kids will enjoy exploring the city and beyond. Activities include: Field Trips, Swimming Lessons, Arts & Crafts, Tumbling, an In-House Sleep Over and more.

June 28

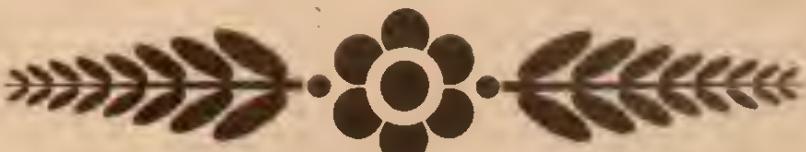
Experiment in Diversity (EID) Community Dinner

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.,

Free

Enjoy a delicious meal and entertainment provided by special guest and the youth in the program.

The mission of EID is to bridge the gaps caused by fear and misunderstanding, and to reduce violence in the community.



Through June 30
Art: National Queer Arts Festival

The National Queer Arts Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary in true cross-cultural form: Latino immigrants re-enact their border crossing experiences, women of color showcase their films, and trans-persons give gender-bending monologues. With 300 artists performing at 50 events in 13 venues across the Bay Area, you'll find something worth seeing. Free to \$15. Information: 864.4124; www.queerculturalcenter.org.

Performance: "Song of Myself"

John O'Keefe, the internationally renowned playwright and director, reinvents Walt Whitman's timeless poem "Song of Myself" as a solo performance piece. O'Keefe's adaptation of the poem—referred to by many as the "Second Constitution of the United States"—received critical acclaim when it premiered in New York earlier this year. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street, \$15 to 25. Information: 800.838.3006; 826.5750; www.themarsh.org.

Through July 1
Theater: Special Forces

Special Forces goes behind the lines in Iraq and rolls international and identity politics into one entertaining and thoughtful presentation. Playwright John Fisher tells the story of a soldier of dubious gender who sends a certain colonel scratching his head. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street. Information: www.TheRhino.org; 552.4100.

Through August
Community: Bayview's Historical Footprints

In collaboration with the Bayview-Hunters Point Neighborhood History Preservation Project, the Anna E. Waden Branch Library will feature a photographic exhibit of the community's diverse history. Multimedia oral histories from neighborhood elders will also be featured. 5075 3rd Street.

Through September 9
Art: Tezuka: The Marvel of Manga

The Asian Art Museum features 200 works by Osamu Tezuka, the godfather of Japanese "Manga" comics. Kids can create their own Manga at the drawing board! 200 Larkin Street. Information: 546.7073; www.marvelofmanga.org.

June 1
Film: Bamako

In Abderrahmane Sissako's acclaimed feature film *Bamako*, the topic of globalization, African debt, and the International Monetary Fund is debated as part of a mock trial taking place in Mali's capital. Rethink African politics through the lens of Mele and Chaka, the protagonists of this entertaining, charming, and provocative new film opening at the Lumiere Theater, 1572 California Street, and other Bay Area locations.

Family: Illusion 6 "La Fiesta"

The Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts has one request: wear ONE solid color. Why? Why not? Enjoy music, poetry, dance, body painting, puppets, videos, food, and more. 2868 Mission Street, 6 p.m., \$5. Information: www.illusionblogspot.com.

June 1-3
Opera: Belfagor

Ever wondered what Machiavelli's "eye for an eye" realist political theories might look like if transformed into art? Look no further than Lisa Scola Prosek's video opera based on Machiavelli's one surviving 16th century novella, *Belfagor*. The play satirically muses on women, money, and materialism: a rather timeless piece, indeed. In Italian with subtitles. Thick House Theater, 1695 1st Street, 7 p.m., \$15. Information: 401.8081; www.thickhouse.org.

June 2
Book Signing: Claire Rudolf Murphy

Al Capone and other convicted felons weren't the only ones to endure Alcatraz's isolation. The children of prison guards and lighthouse keepers played hide-and-seek just footsteps away from California's most notorious criminals. Claire Rudolf Murphy will sign copies of her chilling photo-essay "Children of Alcatraz: Growing Up on the Rock" at the Chrissy Field Center, 603 Mason between 2 and 3 p.m..

June 2-24
Opera: Bandits

A royal wedding. Three million francs. A fool-proof plan. These ingredients seem like a recipe for success, at least for the criminals who always seem to have their hand in the proverbial cookie jar. Jacques Offenbach's opera *Bandits*, performed in the English translation

& ENTERTAINMENT
june 2007

by Donald Pippin, is a crowd-pleaser and perfect for opera first-timers. Playing at various Bay Area locations. Information: 972.8934; www.pocketopera.org.

June 7
Talk: "Urban Nature and Design"

John King and Peter Calthorpe will discuss the effect of urban design and community planning on the environment, and Agnes Denes will talk about how art can play a pivotal role in disseminating information about waste reduction, environmental health, and energy. Commonwealth Club, 595 Market Street, 12 p.m.

June 8
Community: Bayview Project Homeless Connect

Volunteer with Project Homeless Connect and provide much-needed services to the homeless in Bayview. Volunteers help needy families and individuals connect with medical and dental services, legal aid, and behavioral health advice. Southeast Health Center, 2401 Keith Street, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information: 255.3470; www.projecthomelessconnect.org.

June 16-17
Dance: Free Folk Festival

Calling all folk aficionados: the Free Folk Festival is presenting 70 concerts, three evening dances, more than 40 music workshops, and 35 dance workshops. International and local folk performers, such as Swing Theory, Beatbeat Whisper, and WEE the Band take the stage; you can also shop at the Music and Crafts Marketplace. City College of San Francisco, 50 Phelan Avenue, Noon to 11 p.m.. Information: www.sffolkfest.org

June 17
Photography: Capturing the Moment

James Knox presents his collection "Capturing the Moment: A Jazz Photography Exhibit" at San Francisco's Main Public Library. The opening reception will feature an artist discussion, photo slideshow of jazz greats, and live music. 100 Larkin Street, 2 to 4 p.m.

June 19
Artist Talk: "Denatured"

Boyd Richard traces the history of redwood trees from 1850 to the present, while Yedda Morrison installs "postscapes," re-photographed tourist postcards of the "Stafford

Giants." California Historical Society, 678 Mission Street, 6 to 8 p.m. Information: 357.1848.

June 26
Poetry: Leavenworth Poetry Summit V

Support local writers from the Leavenworth Writers Workshop and Community Arts Program as they perform their works at San Francisco's Main Public Library. The reading is presented by the Central City Hospitality House and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the San Francisco Arts Commission. 100 Larkin Street, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 6 p.m. Information: 749.2104.

Film: Legacy Film Series

Youthful directors may swamp the box office with special effects-laden blockbusters, but nothing can displace the oral tradition of an aged storyteller. Sheila Mankind combines the new and the old with her Legacy Film Series at San Francisco's Main Public Library, featuring the following movies on aging: *Afloat*, *My Father's Hopes*, *Let's Face It*, *My Mother's Dreams and Satan's Disciples in New York*, and *Journey With Me: Stories of Growing Older*. 100 Larkin Street, Koret Auditorium, 5:30 p.m.

Kids: Summer recreational programs

If your five, six, or seven year-old needs something active to do this summer, sign them up for Pee Wee Olympics/Co-ed Sports FREE. We'll be playing t-ball, soccer, basketball, tennis, and track and field sports. The program runs from June 26 to August 23, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 am to noon. Enroll at the Potrero Hill Recreation Center on June 1 or 8; or call Mazetta at 695.5009.

June 30
Community: Sharing of Local Histories

Join neighborhood historians and archivists as they share short films, stories, and images of Potrero Hill, Bernal Heights, and Visitacion Valley. Share your thoughts in the open discussion after the event, accompanied by light refreshments. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street, 2:30 pm.

Got an event you want listed in a future issue of the *Potrero View*? Send details to office@potreroview.net.

Deadline: no later than the 15th of the previous month.

Public Pathway Maintained by Private Owners

By Harry J. Johnson

For almost four decades Potrero Hill activist and Kansas Street resident Babette Drefke has been trying to cajole adjacent property owners to make an 18-foot-wide trail within a block of steep land that connects 19th Street between Rhode Island and De Haro streets "safe and traversable." Drefke's advocacy has resulted in supportive letters from several past mayors, including George Moscone and Frank Jordan. But so far little has come of her efforts to improve the pathway.

The steep path is generally composed of dirt, loose gravel and small rocks. The higher elevation Rhode Island side is well-kept and pleasant in appearance. Urban hikers can take advantage of 11 railroad tie steps, two to three feet in width, placed a few steps apart. After the first series of ties there are five rough steps made of large craggy rocks, similarly spaced, followed by two steps made of four-by-four boards. The steps then end, followed by 15 feet of a gravelly dirt trail on which there's an occasional wood or stone step. The middle of the path—the area adjacent to the property owners—is mostly dirt with no steps and heavy foliage, requiring a walker to duck under some branches. About 75 feet from the path's end an 11-step wooden stairway leads to a more level surface terminating at De Haro Street. The trail has no handrails.

The quality of the pathway, considering ease of use and safety, might be rated as poor by urban



Photo by Harry J. Johnson

standards and fair by hiking trail standards, similar to what one might find in the rougher areas of Golden Gate Park. It's traversable by a mobile person walking carefully: easy for the young, potentially treacherous for seniors. The loose gravel increases the danger of slipping and falling. During wet weather the footpath becomes even dodgier. "You can't see the path very well now because it's overgrown with trees and shrubs," said Drefke. "I want those cut.

Anything could happen in those shrubs. You could find a few bodies in there."

According to Drefke, the footpath was going to be turned into a regular street decades ago. But in the early-1950s a nearby resident petitioned the City to abandon the plan because the road would be too steep for cars. In 1956 the landowners adjacent to the pathway requested and received additional land that measured 25 feet by 100 feet wide. "The total price

for each of the four plots, with bay views, was \$312.50 in administrative costs. They worked out something with the City where they would get 18 feet down the middle for public access and they were supposed to put in stairs and maintain it at their expense," said Drefke.

Around 1970, Drefke said, a \$40,000 grant to improve the path was awarded to the Potrero Beatification Group, a loose-knit neighborhood

Continued on Page 16

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Environmental Racism Not a Thing of the Past

By Kerry Fleisher

"We see the pollution. We are all equal. It's not fair to put more trucks in our area," said Ester Hernandez, a Mexican-born Potrero Hill resident who lives on Wisconsin Street with her three Spanish-speaking children. Antoine Mahon, an African-American resident of Bayview-Hunters Point, nodded in agreement. "I have to constantly dust the house because of the toxins from industrial plants," he said solemnly. "In fact, I could park my car and the air quality is so bad the next day it is filled with dust."

Earlier this year Mahon's and Hernandez' informal observations about the environmental health of their neighborhoods were formally confirmed by the Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative. The Collaborative, along with the University of California, (UC) Santa Cruz's Center for Justice, Tolerance and Community (CJTC), issued a comprehensive report detailing race- and language-related environmental disparities in the Bay Area, providing community activists with concrete evidence of environmental inequities.

The study, entitled *Still Toxic After All These Years: Air Quality and Environmental Justice in the Bay Area*, found that large industrial facilities, termed "Toxic Release Inventories" (TRI) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, tend to be located in minority neighborhoods. The results, while not new, are still startling: racial minorities, including African-Americans, Latinos, and Asian-Americans, are much more likely to be subjected to environmental hazards than European-Americans, even taking income differences into account.

As part of the study, researchers Manuel Pastor, from UC Santa Cruz, James Sadd from Occidental College, and Rachel Morello-Frosch from Brown University compared census data with the locations of toxin-emitting TRI facilities in the nine-county Bay Area. They then divided communities into three categories based on their proximity to a TRI: those who live within one mile; those between one and two and a half miles; and those located further than two and half miles.

The results are stark. While the proportion of European-Americans living near a TRI declines as proximity shrinks, African-Americans face a diametrically opposite trend: they are significantly more likely to live close to an industrial plant or oil refinery than other ethnic groups. In fact, African-Americans are three times more likely to live within a mile of a TRI than two and a half miles away from one. Similarly, Latinos are twice as likely to live within one mile of a TRI site, and Asian-Americans

are slightly more likely to live within a mile of such a facility.

Rhoda Charles, a Bayview-Hunters Point resident, claims that environmental hazards are so stifling that if she were financially capable, she would move. "If I could move, I would choose to leave a community with industrial plants unless the situation was definitely going to improve," she said.

Even if Charles traded in her Bayview home for a Mission Bay condominium, however, she may not be able to escape the claws of environmental toxins. While non-white Bay Area residents are particularly exposed to toxic emissions from stationary sources, such as power plants and oil refineries, much of the rest of the population is subjected to air toxins from mobile sources. Upwards of 70 percent of the cancer-causing particulates Bay Area residents are exposed to are linked to diesel truck and other vehicle-related emissions, which don't discriminate by race or income. Richmond, West Oakland, and East San Jose have particularly befouled air, but so does downtown San Francisco, South-of-Market and Mission Bay. Residents of these neighborhoods face higher risks of cancer and respiratory ailments.

While air quality remains alarmingly poor, advocacy groups and regulators are making progress cleaning it up. Last Spring, for example, the Bay Area Ditching Dirty Diesel Collaborative distributed 8,000 pamphlets condemning idling diesel vehicles; two days later, the California Air Resources Board closed a loophole that allowed truckers with sleeper cabs to idle their engines. During the same time period Richmond community groups convinced the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to adopt new flare controls for oil refineries.

Advocacy groups, witnessing the success of these and other victories, are employing neighborhood-based approaches to reducing pollution in their area. Environmental education sessions are more and more often offered in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Southeast Asian languages.

Despite the potential environmental hazards, Elmer Ray Knowles, a Tenderloin resident, says that proximity to family, friends and relatives would prevent him from moving from his neighborhood. "It would be ideal to live as far away as possible" from sources of polluting air emissions, he said. "But I like to have my cake and eat it too." Maria Martinez, a Potrero Hill resident, agrees. "We prefer to live close to our families," she said, "I would prefer for the government to clean up the air. I don't want to move away from my home."



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New Kids on the Block and Other Family News

By Melissa Glorieux

New to the neighborhood: **James Earl Dole**, born on April 27 to Camille Bossenberry, Jon Dole and big brother Elliot.

Happy birthday **Wylie Glorieux!** Wylie turns one on June 13. In the weeks leading up to his first birthday, Wylie has added some new accomplishments to his already impressive list: clapping, taking his first (many!) steps and busting into a kitchen cabinet only minutes after the baby-proofer completed the job.

Arlo Flynn Jacobs turns two on June 14! Proud mum and dad, Mary and Michael Jacobs, report that Arlo has begun randomly yelling out "happy, happy!" lately for no apparent reason, which they really like.

Happy birthday **Adam Moss**, who turned four on May 2 (see accompanying photograph).

Sara Moss celebrates a month of birthday parties leading-up to the grand finale on June 30 (see accompanying photograph)!

Happy birthday **Ruth Passen!** We love you Ruth!

Got family news you want listed in a future issue of the *View*? New baby? Graduation? Birthday on the horizon? Send details to office@potrerview.net. Deadline: no later than the 15th of the previous month.



Photo by Robert Moss

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PACIFIC UNION



Path

Continued from Page 11

group. But the property owners could not come to an agreement on how best to proceed, and the project died before any funds could be expended. "The City has ignored this issue," said Drefke. "But I won't let them forget it. We have to put in sidewalks or they'll put a lien on our property. Well they should have done that to them. Either put a lien on their property, or take back the property," said Drefke.

However, Doris Brin Walker, whose family has owned one of the properties adjacent to the footpath since 1952, disagrees with Dreke's version of local history. According to Walker, a retired attorney, "the City never suggested putting a road between Rhode Island and De Haro, because it's too steep. They agreed to sell parts of the land to adjacent landowners." Further, she said, "The City has been out several times and appears not to be interested. Mayor Frank Jordan came up here once. No accident or incident on the path has been reported so far, as found by a Board of Supervisors meeting several years ago. As long as they can walk on it, it's okay. It's been perfectly okay 40 years. It's always the responsibility of the landowner to maintain the path, and we have always maintained the path. It's all traversable. People use it every day."

Walker, along with her immediate neighbor, takes care of the top half-block of the the pathway's Rhode Island side, where she lives, down to the edge of her property. Unlike the

overgrown lower De Haro side, the Rhode Island trail entryway is well maintained.

About seven years ago another adjacent property owner, Kevin Dill, a San Francisco architect, purchased property on the north side of the path on De Haro Street, on which he built four small two-unit condominium buildings. "The street was City property and it was sold to the owners, who had asked to take care of it," said Dill. "The 18-foot path area is City property. Each property owner is responsible up to the midpoint."

Dill has since sold seven of the eight units. During their construction he installed 11 steps for pedestrian safety on a particularly steep part of the path. He said he's fallen on the trail before. "We drew up some plans for a meandering path and presented it to the three other property owners" said Dill. "But because the parties couldn't agree it went away."

Deputy City Attorney John Malamut said that the City had conveyed the land on which the footpath now resides to the property owners, but that no contractual obligation exists for the owners to maintain the 18-foot strip. However, he said the homeowners are responsible for the upkeep of the path area due to the rule of "unaccepted right of way," which states that the adjacent property owner, not the City, is responsible for the sidewalk, or in this case, the pathway upkeep. He also pointed out that the property owners, not the City, would be liable for personal injury that resulted from use of an unsafe trail.

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Crime

Continued from Page 1
to the Bay and from Channel Street to the San Mateo County line -- and has the dubious honor of having the highest homicide rates over the past three years of any of San Francisco's nine police districts.

Bayview Station Captain Albert Pardini, who took charge of the station two years ago, has launched a number of new programs designed to reduce the Station's high crime rates. "One program I have put in place," said Pardini, "is Crime Suppression Teams that roll through the Bayview and Potrero Hill neighborhoods. These include regular officers augmented by plainclothes officers and supported by the community. If someone sees someone acting suspicious, we urge him or her to report it, and then we can watch that individual. For example, during our surveillance on Potrero Hill late at night, there is very little traffic, so when a car drives down the street, it's unusual, so we follow it slowly. We just had a situation where our officers were watching someone in a car, then saw that the car was suddenly unoccupied, and were able to arrest the driver as he was breaking into another car. And it turned out the car that the suspect had been driving was stolen."

Pardini said that the number of "Part 1" crimes--including arson, aggravated assault, homicide, rape, and robbery--in the area declined

by 24 percent from January 2006 to January 2007. "Our Violent Crime Suppression Teams," Pardini says, "work 17 hours a day, many along the Third Street corridor, trying to keep track of the guys on the street corners. These teams are staffed with overtime officers, and I try to keep two teams, including plainclothes and undercover operations officers, driving around as much as possible." Pardini said that a big part of the station's undercover operations involves watching individuals who may be breaking parole or who have warrants against them for crimes. When these known criminals get into trouble, Pardini's teams quickly make arrests.

To capture frequent offenders, Pardini's team uses plainclothes officers to pose as potential victims. "We use decoy officers," said Pardini, "who purposely look vulnerable, such as smaller, female officers. We set them up with shopping bags, and when the assailants set out to rob them, our plainclothes officers swoop down on them."

Pardini admits that the homicide rate in the area was up in 2006, in large part due to a triple homicide that occurred last fall. There was an increase in robberies last year as well, with 53 occurring in January 2006 compared to only 35 in January 2005. And citywide homicide rates remain stubbornly high, with 85 in 2006, down from 96 in 2005, but with 33 murders already occurring

Continued on Page 20

One Resident's Experience with Crime

By Thomas Hundt

4 a.m.. Couldn't sleep, due to the heat, and maybe that coffee I had at 7 p.m. while working late. I heard a loud smashing sound outside. Looking out the window, I saw a silver car, an Altima, in the middle of Rhode Island Street, just before the 24th Street intersection, with its lights off. The silver car was next to another parked car in the corner spot; a white American car, maybe an Oldsmobile. I saw someone bent over, arm/head in the white car's window.

I called 911. They said they'd send someone. Spoke softly, lest the criminals hear me out the wide-open window.

The guy opened the white car's door and got in. He started working pretty hard; there were smashing and cracking sounds. After a minute or two I heard the engine starting.

A police car pulled up behind the silver car and put its spotlight on it. Both cars started driving. The silver car drove off at a good clip, up the hill on Rhode Island Street. The police followed the white car, which made a left downhill on 24th Street. The car was driving in a lurching, stop and go fashion: apparently the brake/shifter interlock was still engaged. The cops had no problem chasing it down, and were probably laughing their asses off. Score one for the good guys.

A couple of minutes later the phone rings: the officers want to meet me out front to talk. One, two, then a third police car pull up. The officers discussed the incident amongst themselves and with me. The one who'd followed the white car said it was no problem chasing it, since it was going maybe 20 miles per hour, and it was a "piece of junk," but his sergeant had called off the chase with the silver car via radio. The suspect hadn't been seen raping a woman or doing something else violent; high-speed pursuits are dangerous, and police policies discourage them.

The morals of the story: police are quick to respond when called; if you ever steal a car, keep driving; car alarms probably help, if they react to broken glass; if someone wants your car, they're going to get it, don't leave anything irreplaceable inside; property crimes are not a high priority in the Bayview Station area.

I don't blame the officers for not trying to nab the rest of the bad guys, but I'm not happy about it. It's frustrating for everyone, them included.



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Exotic Meats Are Just Around the Corner



Exotic options abound at Polarica USA Inc.

Photo by Paula Eve Aspin

By Paula Eve Aspin

If you have a hankering for exotic meats, Bayview-based Polarica USA Inc. may cure what ails you. For more than a decade this father and daughter business headed by Uruguayan Carlos Tabiera, has been providing meat and poultry from around the world to Bay Area restaurants and the occasional walk-in customer.

Located on a dusty street near long-gone docks, the fairly anonymous storefront looks out on tracks where trains regularly go by, though they don't seem to be going far, as they chug around the corner just past the shop and then chug back retracing their route. It would be romantic to imagine that the trains are delivering fancy fowl and exotic meat from around the globe, but the reality is that Polarica's products are either driven in by the truckload, or in the case of New Zealand born elk and fallow deer, air freighted in.

The store itself holds an eccentrically old-fashioned, curiously old-world charm. It's decorated with a hunter's bounty of deer and moose heads, partial pelts and whole fowl caught in flight. The decor recalls history museum dioramas such as those recently made popular by the movie *Night at the Museum*, but probably more accurately harkens to the European butcher shop tradition

of displaying both the 'before and after' of their products.

Tabiera has a longsighted view of our future protein needs. He believes that people will never find surviving on roots and vegetables alone agreeable, and feels society needs to identify different types of meat protein to feed future generations. Coming from South America he's well aware of the resources needed to produce cattle to feed our surf and turf society. And he's thinking beyond today, when it may no longer be practical to produce beef in large quantities. His company provides exotic meats with the hope of enlarging the market for these and other meat products in the future.

Just what are these rarely eaten meats that may one day be as commonplace as our beef hamburger? Use your imagination and suspend your current preferences and menu choices. How about wrapping your taco around rattlesnake and alligator meat? These are already popular choices in Texas which, while no recommendation in itself, does point to a market that's growing.

Venison has always been an option and a stable niche market for it exists. Buffalo holds an even smaller niche with room to grow. Goose, duck and other fancy fowl have been particularly appreciated in Europe not only for the taste and

versatility but for the healthy nature of the fat. Polarica sells Pekin Duck, also known as Long Island Duck-- and you must specify if you want the head and feet included--all natural Californian Muscovy Duck, Barbaric Duck (Magret), and Moulard Duck. You can also order duck bones for stock by the 25-pound box alongside rendered duck and goose fat.

Ostrich, which you may never have tasted, is shockingly delicious. It's easily farmed, nutritious and adaptable to many meat recipes. The problem may be our perception of the bird and our belief that it wouldn't make for good eating. Similar to the 'prune problem' of how to garner wider acceptance, perhaps they should re-brand Ostrich as simply 'big bird meat' similar to the way

prunes are widely known as 'dried plums'.

Polarica carries a wide range of 'exotic' meats. Just don't ask for monkey meat and forget about tiger; Polarica doesn't carry either of these dangerous or endangered meats.

Polarica is conveniently located to service the adventurous kitchen bounty hunter in us all. Walk-in customers are welcome at the exotic depot; it's just down the road and you could be your friend's and family's gourmet trailblazer. Grab a couple of snakes and half an elk and rustle up a mighty fine bar-b-que, Polarica-style.

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Obituary



Potrero Hill Resident and Actress Dies After a Long Life of Theater

By Paul Sarvis

Winifred Mann (aka Sarvis) died in Mill Valley on May 11, 2007. She was 88 years old. Winnie was familiar to Bay Area theater audiences as an actress with the Actor's Workshop, San Francisco Interplayers, and American Conservatory Theater, among other venues. She played Yvette in the first professional American production of Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage*, worked with Tennessee Williams on *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore*, and received a Hollywood Drama-Logue Critics Award for her performance in Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*. Her film and television credits include *The Candidate*, *Tell Me a Riddle*, *Smile*, and *The Streets of San Francisco*. In the late-1960s, she left the Bay Area briefly for a season at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, and work at New York's Lincoln Center and Joseph Papp's Shakespeare Festival.

Winnie and her younger sister Irene were born in Brooklyn to Ann and Arthur Klein. The family was plagued by financial troubles, as Arthur and his brothers engaged in one doomed money-making scheme after another; Winnie later characterized him as a real-life Willie Loman. Winnie was drawn to the theater while a student at Girl's Commercial High School, and after graduating she worked as a salesgirl at Gimbels Department Store, performed in W.P.A. stage productions, and studied acting

at Harold Clurman's New Theater League School. She moved to Los Angeles in the early 1940s, was briefly married to director and teacher Danny Mann, and worked with the Actor's Lab, a newly created institute devoted to training actors for film.

During World War II Winnie was a USO actress serving in Italy and the South Pacific, where she was featured in Ayn Rand's *The Night of January 16th*, a play about a murder trial which involved audience members as jurors. Her G.I. audiences were riveted, and the experience reinforced the young actress' belief in live theater's power and immediacy. Before and after the war she was active in left-wing *agit prop* political theater, first in Los Angeles, and then in San Francisco with her second husband, Dave Sarvis, at the California Labor School Theater.

Winnie attended college for the first time at the age of 50: she graduated Cum Laude from San Francisco State University, earned an M.A. in speech pathology, and spent the last decade of her working life as a Speech Therapist at Ralph K. Davies Medical Center in San Francisco. She loved her Potrero Hill home, enjoying a life of relative solitude punctuated by volunteer work with the *View*, and scrabble games with her pal, Dorothy Neville. She's survived by two children, Deborah and Paul, who have benefited from her love, skepticism, and ironic sensibility.

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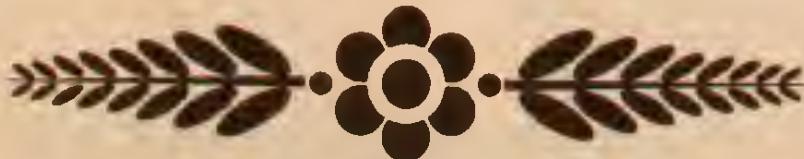
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Here's what it comes down to: If you'd prefer to have someone else collect a monthly sum from you and then make your semi-annual property tax payments for you, then you may view an impound account as something of a convenience, not to mention a possible release from emotional hassles. If, however, you take no pleasure in handing your money over before it is actually due and payable--given that you prefer to keep your money under your own control, thank you, and perhaps to be earning interest on it as well--then an impound account may not look very good in your eyes.

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Crime

Continued from Page 17
during the first four months of this year. However, only six of this year's homicides occurred in the Bayview Station area, compared to 28 last year. Pardini believes that the lower murder rate in his service territory is the result of less gang violence in the area, with many former gang members either in jail or dead.

And what about all those car break-ins? "We've seen a 45 percent reduction in auto burglaries from January 2006 to January 2007," Pardini says. "But we urge the public to use our anonymous tip line to call in whenever they see something suspicious. It's a voicemail line with no caller ID, so we won't know who called, but we check it all the time, and it really helps."

Maria Wilson, a 7-year resident of De Haro and 22nd streets, said that while some of her neighbors have complained about car break-ins, she hasn't been affected by crime. "When I lived in the Duboce Triangle area, my roommate was robbed at gunpoint and had her car broken into five times in two years. I feel very safe on Potrero Hill." Other residents, particularly those who recently heard the pop, pop, pop of gunfire, aren't so sure. "Although I am no longer shocked by this kind of stuff [crime], I do feel like it's starting to color my feelings about living here," said one community member.

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Bus Stop Warning

By Austin Staunch

I got mugged Monday night, May 21 at the bus stop at 16th and Harrison streets, a block west of the Safeway, while waiting for the number 22 bus. Some chick came up to me and said, "Hey, what's up?" and threw her hand in my face. She seemed to have mace, but she was too dumb to get it to fire. I ducked and covered and she grabbed me by my head and threw me out in the street, where a larger accomplice joined her. They grabbed at my bag, which was slung across my body, and went through my pockets. I kept my face down to avoid the mace and started throwing elbows and fists. I made lots of noise but no one came to help. The hard part was just not knowing what they wanted, or what their intentions were. I cracked one of them a couple of times and she finally let go of me without getting the most valuable thing I had, my I-pod. She did get, among other things, my cash, credit cards and worst of all, my driver's license. I was supposed to fly the next morning and my passport just expired, so I had no valid picture ID with which to board my plane.

I may have been lucky though; there was a car-load of people waiting for my muggers just around the corner and I did not end up with all of them on me. They were in what appeared to be a silver sedan, possibly a Buick, that had a big dent across the back (I wish I'd gotten the license plate number!).

I know this can happen anywhere, but my attackers seemed to have their little tag team routine down pretty well. I'm usually pretty aware and thought I had eyes in the back of my head but they caught me off guard. I doubt they would have even stopped if they didn't see my I-pod ear-buds. I should have had them tucked away until I got on the bus.

Even though this ID thing is a \$%&* disaster, I only walked away with superficial wounds. I could have been roughed up a lot worse.

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Police Blotter

Tuesday, May 1, 1:05 p.m., Attempted Homicide with a Gun, 1900 block of 25th Street. San Francisco Police Department Housing Officers Sanders, Fowlie and Rodatos responded to a call regarding a shooting. When they arrived they saw the victim laying in the street bleeding from what appeared to be gun shot wounds to each leg. The officers secured the area and rendered medical aid. An ambulance arrived and transported the victim to San Francisco General Hospital. Officer Fowlie rode in the ambulance with the victim, who said that after a female had dropped him off at 25th and Wisconsin streets the suspect arrived in a vehicle and began shooting at him. The victim said he realized he'd been shot and pretended that he was dead so the suspect would leave. The victim refused to tell Officer Fowlie who the female was that had dropped him off, what the suspect looked like or the description of the vehicle he'd gotten out of. Several units arrived at the crime scene and attempted to obtain additional witnesses to no avail.

Sunday, May 13, 9:10 a.m. and 1:15 p.m., Robbery of a Gas Station, 25th and 3rd Streets. A gas station clerk was robbed at gunpoint. The gunman entered the station and demanded that the clerk open the register and hand over the money. He then ordered the clerk into the bathroom. When the clerk emerged, the gunman had fled. The police were called. A witness saw the gunman running and a search was performed. A possible suspect was found, but the witness and the victim did not identify him as the gunman.

A few hours later, Bayview units were in the same area when a pedestrian flagged them down, yelling, "Hey that guy robbed me." A Nissan was speeding away from the scene. The officers gave chase and were led to the Potrero Hill Housing Complex. The officers lost sight of the car, but found it abandoned by the Potrero Hill Recreation Center. A passerby pointed the officers to where the suspect ran. The officers followed the lead and saw the suspect in the complex running into a cluster of housing units. A search was performed, and a resident pointed to a man in her house and said that he'd just kicked down her door. This man also happened to be the one that was being chased by the officers.

The officers returned to the gas station to look for the victim that flagged them down but they were unable to locate him. Without the victim the officers could not charge the man with robbery. However, there were other charges. It is unknown if this suspect was connected to the earlier robbery.



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Toxic Lunch Boxes Endanger Kids

By Heather World
Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

When Isabel Samaras read that some vinyl lunch boxes contained lead, she ignored federal reassurances that the health risks were low, threw away her son's Darth Vader model box and posted signs at his preschool, Buen Dia, warning other parents of the danger.

"I called the store that sold it and told them all about it, but they had a, 'Yeah, well, everything gives you cancer,' attitude, which is a great song by Joe Jackson but a lousy customer service angle," said Samaras, a Mission District resident.

Like many of her friends who have children, Samaras knew that even low lead levels in a child's developing body can cause learning and behavioral problems. Manufacturers like to use the substance in lunchboxes because it stabilizes the vinyl, preventing it from cracking and lengthening its life.

Most lunchbox manufacturers, many of whom are located in Asia, agreed to remove lead from their lunchboxes when an Oakland-based environmental advocacy group threatened them with legal action. However, questions remain about the testing procedures used by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)--the federal regulatory agency charged with protecting consumers against health risks--to determine likely exposure levels from leaded lunchboxes.

The Congressional committee responsible for consumer protection held hearings last month to determine why CPSC interpreted even low lead levels in lunchboxes as unlikely to cause risks to children. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), using CPSC's test results, warned manufacturers to reduce lead content lest the mineral leach into the food inside. While the two federal agencies have overlapping responsibilities, CPSC is responsible for monitoring consumer products, while the FDA focuses on food and drugs.

In a February letter to CPSC, the Energy and Commerce Committee asked why the Commission found any amount of lead in children's lunchboxes to be safe. "Shouldn't all school lunchboxes be lead free?" the Committee wrote. "If other chemicals can be substituted, why is CPSC not requiring that?"

Tainted lunchboxes first made news in the summer of 2005, when the Center for Environmental Health (CEH) announced it had found alarmingly high lead levels in the vinyl lining of many of the hundred or so lunch boxes it tested. According to the Center, though the lunchbox lead was unlikely to cause acute lead poisoning, its presence in conjunction

with other lead exposures could endanger children.

Ten year old CEH works to protect consumers from environmental and public health hazards. The organization acts as a sort of private enforcer of Proposition 65, a 1986 California measure that requires businesses to warn customers if their products contain chemicals that the state has found to be potentially harmful, said Caroline Cox, CEH's research director. The group has fought to remove lead from imported candy and children's toy jewelry; and arsenic and other toxic chemicals from playgrounds.

Shortly after announcing its findings, CEH began suing lunchbox manufacturers and, in some cases, retailers like Toys 'R Us and Walgreens, under Proposition 65 to get the lead out. The two top manufacturers, InGear and Fashion Accessory Bazaar, quickly agreed to reformulate their products with an eye toward eliminating interior vinyl altogether. This, in turn, triggered a wave of settlements with smaller producers.

Meanwhile, CPSC conducted its own tests for the presence of lead in lunchboxes. While CEH had melted the lunchboxes to analyze their chemical make-up, CPSC's scientists employed a "swab test," in which they swabbed a box and analyzed the level of transferred contamination. CPSC found that while the lunchboxes contained lead, the risk of dangerous exposure was minimal. According to the agency, a child would have to touch his lunchbox and lick his hands 600 times a day for more than two weeks to ingest enough lead to cause health problems.

Cox said that CPSC's internal documents -- obtained by the media through the Freedom of Information Act -- indicate that the Commission's scientists changed their testing methods mid-stream, resulting in lower estimated exposure risks. CPSC initially sampled lunchboxes by swabbing different spots, and found that lead levels exceeded federal limits for paint. The Commission then switched methods and swabbed the same spot repeatedly, which resulted in less lead being found. "The average amount per wipe became lower," Cox said.

Actual risks are most likely somewhere between what CEH and CPSC found, mainly because consumers use products in different and sometimes unforeseen ways, said Dr. Yan Chin of the California Department of Health Services' childhood lead poisoning prevention branch. "It's probably a little more than a swipe and a little less than a

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Toxic Lunchbox

Continued from Page 22

digest," he said. For example, some children will lick melted candy from the inside of their lunchbox, whereas others grab sandwiches and carrot sticks swaddled in plastic bags or wax paper.

"Lead is a natural mineral ubiquitous in our environment," said Chin. "The leading causes of lead poisoning are paint, dust, soil and imported ceramics and herbal remedies. Alternative stabilizers for vinyl used in lunchboxes exist," he said, "they just cost more."

For many parents, including Andrew Rhein, a Glen Park father of two, money isn't the issue. "If I saw two identical lunchboxes and one said 'lead free' and the other did not, I would probably buy the lead free--even if it cost more," he said. Yet even this precaution may not help, according to CEH. Last autumn the group found that at least two manufacturers who claimed their lunchboxes were "lead-free" based their findings on CPSC's less rigorous testing methods.

Many parents, already coping with the risks associated with

drinking milk from hormone-treated cows, harmful chemicals leached from plastic baby bottles and myriad other scares, have passing knowledge of potentially toxic lunchboxes. Others, like Carrie Hadler, rely on home-testing kits to evaluate their children's boxes. "Paper bags don't hold up well enough," said the Sunset mom. "I should have kept that metal Mork and Mindy lunch box from when I was a kid."

CEH is monitoring the issue, testing new lunchboxes as they come on the market. "It's ongoing," Cox said. "A new company could start up and be unaware of the issue." For her part, Samaras continues to warn other parents. "I'm the very annoying person at the playground and store who will tell other people," she said. But Darth Vader and other favored characters don't confine themselves to vinyl, she found. "We switched to hard plastic," she said.

For more information:
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's FAQ <http://www.cpsc.gov/phth/vinyl.html>.
The Center for Environmental Health <http://www.cehca.org>.

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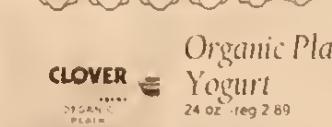
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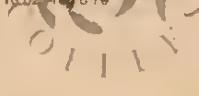
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Neighborhood Housing

Continued from Page 5

land use in the area; the eastern neighborhoods are responsible for more than one-third of the land zoned for PDR in San Francisco.

The study found that the Planning Department's proposed zoning policies would double the City's residential development potential, creating an additional 22,000 units, six times more than what would be constructed under existing land use policies.

According to the study the proposed zoning changes would be beneficial for PDR in the long-run, though some businesses would be forced out of the area. Economic impacts would be mixed, with job losses resulting from a roughly one-quarter reduction in land use zoned for PDR, but the creation of

a potentially more diverse economic base. The proposed rezoning would also increase housing supplies, including creation of some below-market units.

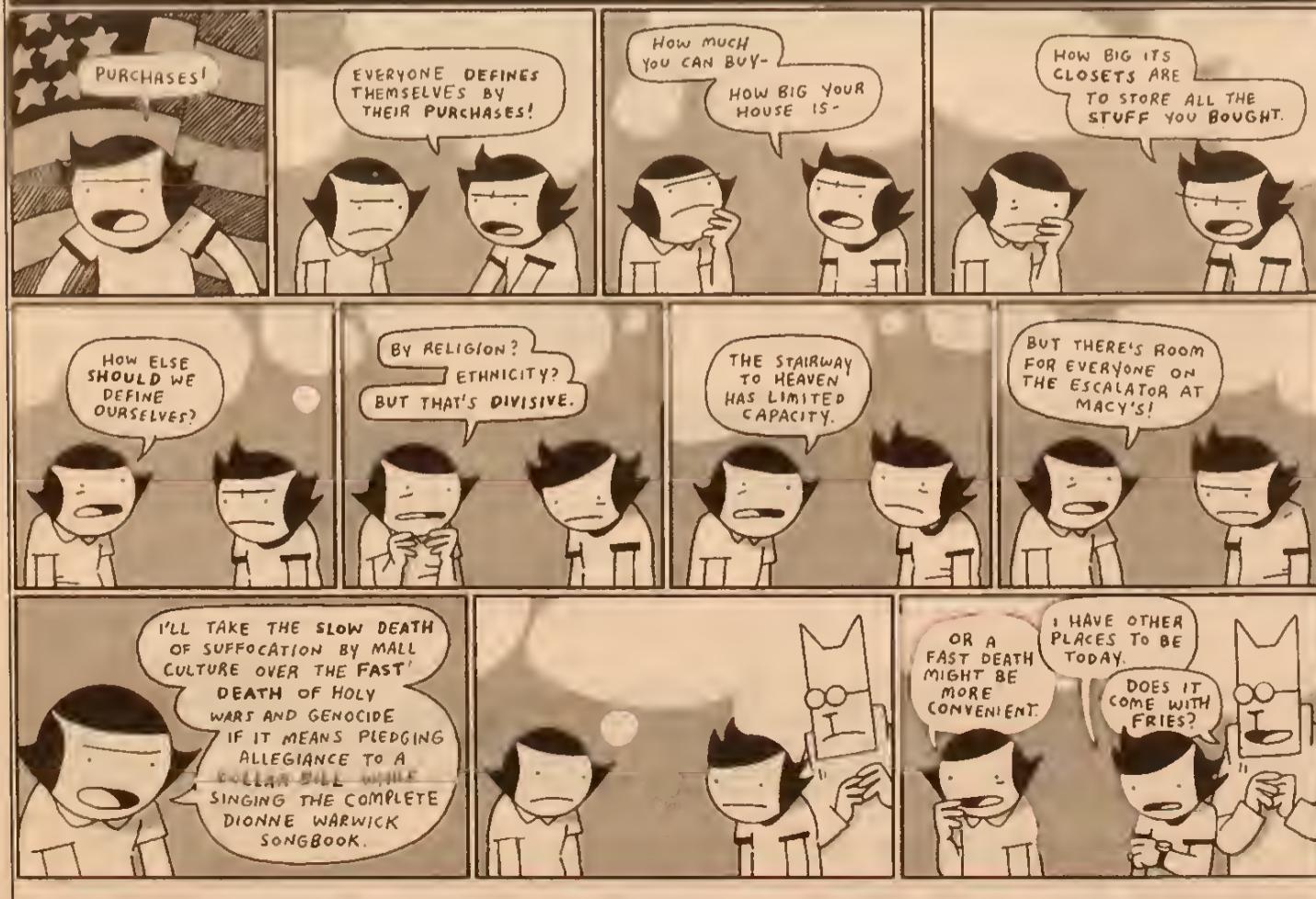
The socioeconomic impact analysis concluded that the Planning Department's rezoning options are preferable to maintaining existing zoning, chiefly because the no-action alternative would result in *ad hoc* unplanned development. However, what remains unknown is how much better the alternatives that lie between doing nothing and vastly expanding the eastern neighborhood's population would be for the impacted communities and the City as a whole.

A copy of the socioeconomic impacts analysis can be found at <http://easternneighborhoods.sfplanning.org>.

Cat and Girl

By Dorothy Gambrell

I Just Don't Know What to Do with Myself



Autism

Continued from Page 6

a half. But Maria, who speaks excellent English, wasn't convinced. In addition to the GGRC evaluation, she brought Josh to the University of California, San Francisco's Autism Clinic, which serves people who are covered by private insurance and offers discounted services to those who cannot pay, for another opinion. Maria was able to rely on her family's health insurance to pay for needed care, although many interventions, such as speech therapy, aren't covered.

Monica Arroyo, clinic coordinator, has handled evaluations for a handful of Latinos. "When I translate for families, I can sense their difficulty and I can tell that they have lots of questions they're not asking because they're uncomfortable," said Arroyo, who grew up in Puerto Rico.

Although the Perez family didn't require the clinic's translation services, they were glad to more accurately pinpoint where Josh was along the autism spectrum. Having clinic director Dr. Bryna Siegel's name on the evaluation was also important, said Maria. "When she speaks, people listen." Siegel, author of several books on autism, including *Helping Children with Autism Learn: Treatment Approaches for Parents and Professionals*, said that autistic children's experiences in San Francisco are closely tied to their interaction with the school district.

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) offers a variety of treatment approaches that are individualized to meet each disabled student's needs, according to Gentle Blythe, Director of SFUSD's Office of Public Outreach and Communications. Depending on the severity of the disability, educational support can be informal or highly structured, including access to speech, language, and physical therapists. Parents can also request

translation services for both face-to-face meetings and written documents. Roughly 50 Latino SFUSD students have been identified as autistic. "Our highly qualified teachers employ a variety of instructional techniques and supports," said Blythe, citing several types of interventions.

"Some kids are getting quality services, but there is a large number who aren't," said Siegel, who consults with school districts across the country. "San Francisco's educational practice is biased towards inclusion in regular classrooms, and educational research doesn't support that. In essence, you're taking the child out of the hands of a certified teacher and into the hands of an aide with limited experience, although there are some very good aides."

Finding school services that meet Josh's needs has been challenging for the Perez family. Several years ago they moved from San Francisco to San Mateo in search of better school services for their older daughter who also requires special education. The San Mateo preschool programs available for Josh were either below his abilities or tailored to speech problems, not autism. Maria feared that her son would pick up bad habits, such as banging his head on the wall or finger-chewing, from the children in the low-performing classroom. She decided to enroll him in the higher level speech class, since he was calling things by their color, asking for "red" instead of "apple."

Josh significantly advanced in preschool. "The teacher, Marcy Anderson, was the best thing for my son. She taught him how to talk," said Maria. But that progress came at a price. Based on the abilities he demonstrated in preschool, the San Mateo School District wanted to place him in regular kindergarten, with no additional support. Maria was told that the District didn't offer "Cadillac service." Fearful of how Josh would fare without additional help, Maria considered suing the District. But her pushing ultimately succeeded in getting Josh a placement in a regular classroom with a personal aide and two and a half hours of therapy each week, where Josh learns important social skills, like taking turns and sharing. He appears to be thriving.

"It is uncommon in Latino cultures to have a right to services, such as special education, and families are grateful for any services whatsoever, so they often won't challenge the system when their rights are denied," says de Mateo Smith, who was born and raised in Mexico City.

Autism services tailored for Spanish-speaking Latinos are available throughout the Bay Area. In the Mission District, Support for Families of Children with Disabilities coordinates Spanish language workshops, support groups, counseling, and has Spanish-speaking staff, a Spanish language newsletter, and other services geared towards families effected by all kinds of disabilities. Almost one-third of the organization's clients are Latino, with about 20 percent

Continued on Page 26



Photo by Katherine Levin

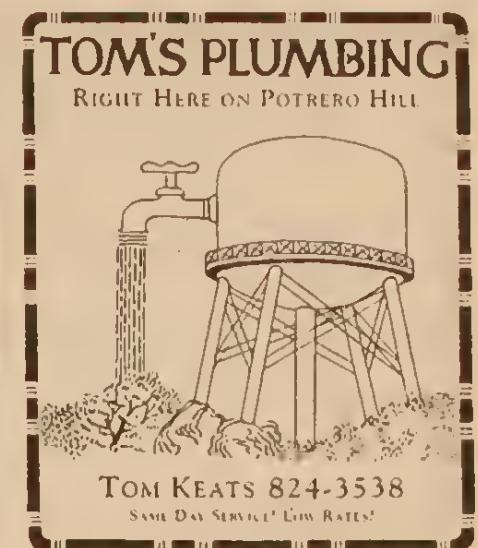
Kelly Hensley, who opened Mani Pedi in 2001, sold her high-end nail salon a few of months ago. The two store-front operation at the top of Potrero Hill is now called Pinkies nail salon. Kelly is developing an organic paraben-free product line for sale at national department stores. The Mani Pedi line is produced in a laboratory powered by the wind.

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Autism

Continued from Page 24

coming from primarily Spanish-speaking households. The Center for Independence of the Disabled, Parca, and Parents Helping Parents also provide assistance and Spanish translation for families of disabled children. In the East Bay, a group of parents called Angelitos del Futuro con Autismo offers support for Latino families.

Today, Maria takes out her new digital camera, eager to take photos of Josh: a favorite hobby. "One day he told me, 'Mom, enough with the pictures!'" she said, laughing. "I see my little troublemaker out there

and I feel truly blessed. I am lucky because mothers before me have paved the road. In the end, we're all just parents trying to help our kids," she said.

For more information:
Golden Gate Regional Center, 120 Howard Street, Third Floor, 546.9222, www.ggrc.org.

Hispanic Alliance Support Network, www.manitasporautismo.com.

SFUSD Special Education, 1098 Harrison, 355.7735,
Support for Families of Children with Disabilities, 2601 Mission Street, Third Floor, 920.5040, www.supportforfamilies.org.

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UCSF Mission Bay Community Task Force



Potrero Hill from Bernal Heights, 1944

We need to hear from YOU!

UCSF has convened a Mission Bay Community Task Force to examine the impact of UCSF on the communities surrounding UCSF Mission Bay. This process is separate from the hospital design process, and focuses on UCSF's space needs around, not on, our Mission Bay research campus and hospital sites.

The Task Force provides a forum for dialogue about the interaction between community needs and desires and UCSF's future in and around Mission Bay.

By the end of this calendar year, the Task Force will identify community issues related to UCSF

development in the Mission Bay area, and will develop a set of community planning principles that will be used in drafting an amendment to UCSF's long range development plan.

Task Force members represent neighborhood organizations including the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, Potrero Boosters, Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses, and Potrero Hill Parents Association. SOMA and the Mission District are also represented, as are the Port of San Francisco and the San Francisco Planning Department.



If you would like future notification about UCSF community meetings on planning at Mission Bay, please email us at community@cgr.ucsf.edu or call UCSF Community Relations at 415/476-3206.

Please visit www.community.ucsf.edu for more information and meeting updates.

Please join us for a Community Workshop

Monday, June 18, 2007

7:00-9:00 p.m.

**UCSF Mission Bay Campus
Genentech Hall
1600 16th Street at 4th Street**

UCSF Mission Bay is served by Muni's T-Third light rail. Complimentary parking is available on the night of June 18 in the open-air lot on 4th Street, off 16th Street.

UCSF fully subscribes to the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you feel you have a need for accommodation, contact 415/476-3206 with your suggested accommodation.

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